



**King County**

**Department of Natural Resources and Parks** • Wastewater Treatment Division  
Environmental and Community Services Section • 201 South Jackson Street,  
MS KSC-NR-0505, Seattle, WA 98104-3855 • FAX 206-684-1278

## **DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**Purpose of Announcement:** The purpose of this announcement is to invite comments on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be prepared for the King County Wastewater Treatment Division Clean Water Plan in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Information about the Clean Water Plan and how to submit scoping comments is provided below.

**Lead Agency:** King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Wastewater Treatment Division

**Date of Issuance:** May 20, 2020

**Description of Proposal:** The King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is preparing the Clean Water Plan to guide its water quality investments through the year 2060. The Clean Water Plan will amend King County's Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) which has been guiding the operation and development of WTD's wastewater infrastructure and related activities since that plan was adopted in 1999.

Development of the Clean Water Plan is driven by a set of complex issues facing the region that necessitate a comprehensive evaluation of how WTD can maximize the benefits of its future water quality investments in order to deliver the best water quality outcomes, as well as the best economic, social, and health outcomes, for the region. Toward that end, the Clean Water Plan will explore a range of different investment strategies that include policy, program, and project actions to protect and enhance regional water quality.

WTD is currently developing the action alternatives for consideration in the EIS. The EIS will also include a No Action alternative representing what would happen if WTD does not develop and implement the Clean Water Plan. WTD is developing the EIS alternatives based on how different potential investment strategies would address a variety of relevant issues including, but not limited to, the following:

*Regional Wastewater Treatment Plants:* WTD is exploring different options to improve existing wastewater treatment facilities or to construct new wastewater treatment facilities. Both the capacity of facilities and their level of treatment will be explored. The capacity exploration will examine options for expanding treatment plants to serve population growth including large treatment plants serving multiple sites, smaller plants serving one city, and on-site treatment systems serving individual large buildings. The levels of treatment to be explored will include continuing the current secondary treatment level, secondary treatment plus nutrient removal, advanced treatment to remove additional pollutants, and further advanced treatment to remove enough pollutants to produce drinking quality water.

*Capacity in Regional Sewer Pipes and Pumps:* WTD is exploring options for maintaining the capacity of its regional network of underground pipes and pumps, referred to as conveyance system, which moves sewage from homes and business to treatment plants. This includes consideration of options such as the continuation of the wastewater conveyance system's current level of service (5% chance of overflow in any given year), a revised level of service (20% chance of overflow in any given year), aggressive infiltration and inflow (I/I) reduction and incentivizing self-directed I/I reduction, and conveyance system control optimization.

*Aging Sewer Systems, Natural Disasters, and Climate Change:* Operating the regional wastewater system requires making informed decisions related to infrastructure operations, maintenance, renewal, and resilience. WTD is exploring a range of investment levels for asset management to understand the resulting levels of risk of failure or service disruption. WTD is also considering the resiliency of its wastewater infrastructure to potential risks such as natural disasters and climate change.

*Recycling Resources from Wastewater:* WTD recovers materials and energy from its wastewater treatment processes to produce fuel, heat, water, soil amendments, and nutrients for reuse. Options will be explored for the recovery and reuse of these resources as elements of making other improvements to the system including treatment plant improvements. Options to be explored include biosolids production for fertilizer and compost, and recycled water use.

*Stormwater and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO):* A range of options for managing stormwater and combined sewer overflows will be explored, including: continuing current planned CSO control projects as well as other options that could result in equal or better water quality benefits. A range of potential projects to increase the amount of stormwater treated or pollutants removed from stormwater will also be explored, including water quality trading concepts such as market-based incentives and pooling funding.

*Pollution Reduction Issues Preventing Pollution at the Source:* WTD will explore a range of options for controlling pollution at the source, such as continuing current programs to work with industry in the region to remove pollutants prior to reaching the wastewater treatment system; incentivizing the reduction of, or requiring elimination of, pollutants; and; potential industry and government partnerships.

*Pollution from Historical Activities:* WTD will explore options that include continuing current programs to clean up contaminants that have built up in sediments from past activities. More expansive programs to address legacy pollution, including projects in and adjacent to water bodies that remove pollutants and prioritize restoration of critical habitat will also be explored.

**Location of the Proposal:** The Plan covers the area served by WTD that includes the urban growth areas of King County and adjacent portions of south Snohomish County, and a small area of north Pierce County.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Required:** WTD, has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment; therefore, an EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared. The EIS will address relevant aspects of the built and natural environment for each alternative. The areas that WTD has identified for potential consideration in the EIS include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Earth** (geology, soils, erosion and landslide hazards)
- **Air** (air quality, odors, climate change)

- **Water** (surface and ground water, quality, quantity, and stormwater)
- **Plants and Animals** (habitat and diversity of species, ESA listed species)
- **Energy and Natural Resources** (use, efficiency; renewable resources, conservation)
- **Environmental Health** (noise, hazardous materials)
- **Land and Shoreline Use** (relationship to existing plans and policies, population growth)
- **Transportation** (transportation systems, traffic)
- **Public Services and Utilities** (emergency services, water/stormwater, sewer, solid waste)
- **Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice** (including Indian Treaty Rights)

**Scoping:** Agencies, cities, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on potential alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

**Comment Deadline:** Comments must be submitted by 5:00PM June 19, 2020.

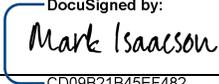
**Comment Online:** Comments may be submitted via email to [CleanWaterPlanSEPA@kingcounty.gov](mailto:CleanWaterPlanSEPA@kingcounty.gov)

**Mail:** Written comments may be submitted via mail addressed to:  
ATTN: Katherine Fischer, Environmental Programs Managing Supervisor  
King County Wastewater Treatment Division  
201 South Jackson Street, MS KSC-NR-0505  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

**Additional Information:** Please refer to the Clean Water Plan SEPA Scoping Online Open House at <https://publicinput.com/CleanWaterPlan> for additional information.

**SEPA Responsible Official:** Mark Isaacson  
**Position/Title:** Director, King County Wastewater Treatment Division  
**Address:** 201 South Jackson Street, MS KSC-NR-0501  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

**Date:** 5/18/2020

**Signature:**   
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**Proponent and Lead Agency:** King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Wastewater Treatment Division

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